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West Nile Virus Newsletter

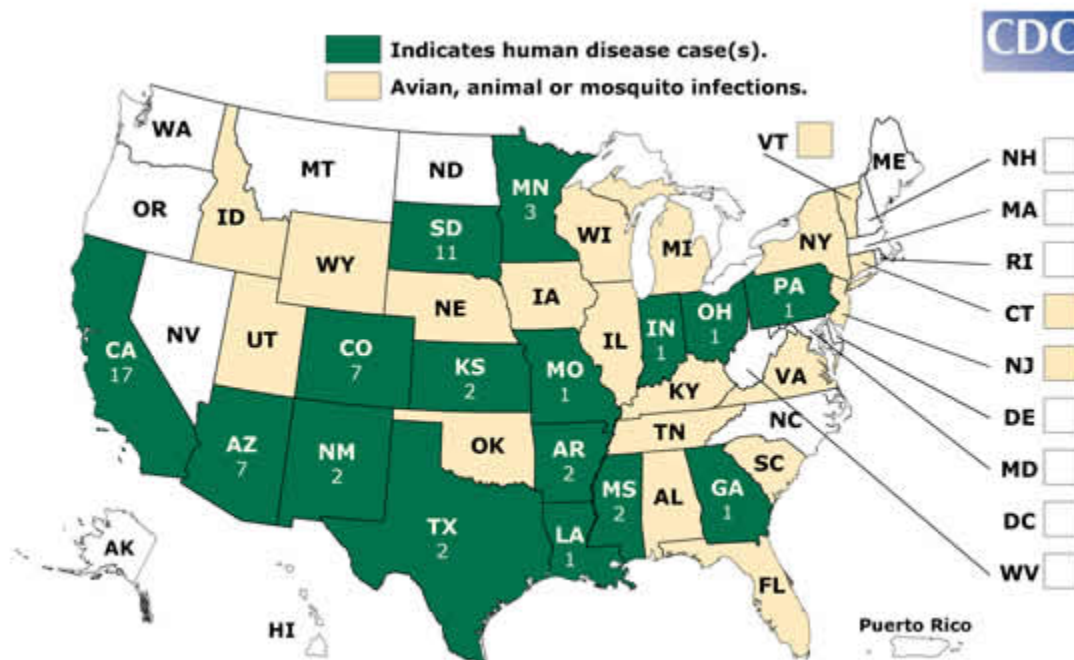


The Department of Health (DOH) is using this electronic newsletter as a regular communication tool to help keep its partners informed about West Nile virus (WNV). The newsletter will be provided every two weeks throughout the warmer part of the mosquito season and less frequently during the colder, non-peak mosquito periods.

National surveillance

Provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

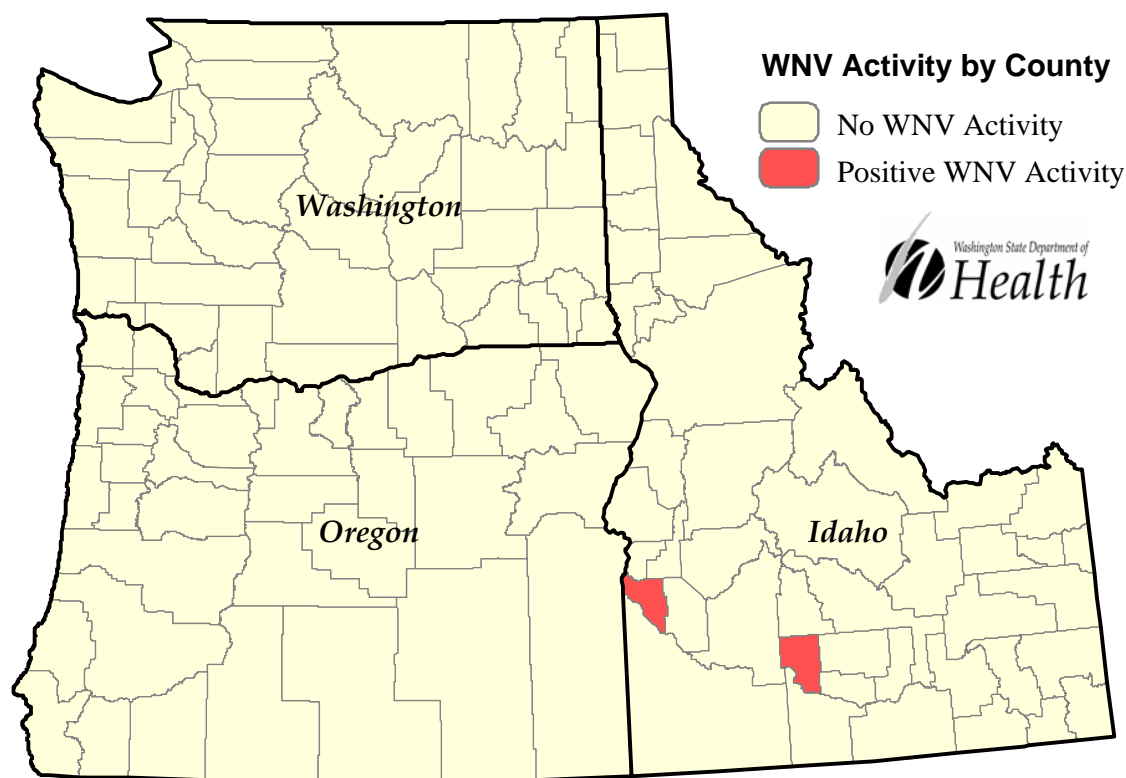
2005 West Nile Virus Activity in the United States (Reported to CDC as of July 26, 2005)



In 2005, a total of 16 states have published 61 human cases of West Nile, compared with 265 cases from 17 states at this time in 2004.

National Clinical and Demographic Human Data: In 2005, among 53 cases with available clinical and demographic data, the median age was 47 years (range: 17 – 80 years), and 28 (53 percent) were in males. Of these 53 cases, 16 (30 percent) were neuroinvasive. In 2005 there have been a total of two published WNV-related fatalities. Of these two fatalities the age was available on one. The age of the decedent was 70 years.

Northwest 2005 West Nile virus activity by county



Source: Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, www.westnile.idaho.gov, July 28, 2005. Oregon Department of Human Services, <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/acd/diseases/wnile/wnile.shtml>, July 25, 2005. Washington State Department of Health, www.doh.wa.gov/wnv, July 28, 2005.

British Columbia, <http://www.bccdc.org/>, reports no positive cases of WNV as of July 28, 2005.

In Idaho, a horse from Canyon and Gooding County have tested positive for WNV. Canyon County has also reported positive mosquito pools. News releases are available at www.westnile.idaho.gov. In 2004, six horses and one bird tested positive for WNV in Canyon County. Last year in Gooding County, one human, eight birds, and one horse tested positive for the virus.

Spokane-area woman's blood test is negative for WNV infection

Washington State Department of Health, News Release, July 18, 2005.

OLYMPIA — Blood tests conducted by the Department of Health show the illness of a Spokane-area woman was not caused by West Nile virus infection. The woman had initially tested positive; however, additional tests showed that her illness was not caused by West Nile virus. There have not been any cases of West Nile virus infection in horses, birds or humans this year in Washington. Last year, the confirmed human West Nile virus infections in our state had been traveling to areas where West Nile was active when exposed.

The woman, who is in her twenties, was hospitalized with symptoms similar to West Nile fever infection; however, today's result from testing conducted by the state Public Health Laboratories in Shoreline indicates that West Nile virus was not the cause of her illness. Many other illnesses

can have the same symptoms of fever and headache. The negative result from this test means the Department of Health will not send samples to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) laboratory in Fort Collins, Colorado for confirmatory tests.

View the complete news release at http://www.doh.wa.gov/Publicat/2005_news/05-092.htm .

Research

West Nile virus devastates an American Crow population. Caffrey, Carolee et al. The Condor 107:128-132. The Cooper Ornithological Society 2005
<http://environmentalrisk.cornell.edu/WNV/WNVEducDocs/Caffrey-Condor05.pdf>

Abstract. In its spread west across North America in 2002, West Nile virus (WNV) reached a population of marked American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) in Stillwater, Oklahoma, in late summer. Within two months, 46 of 120 individuals were missing or known to be dead, 39 of which (33% of the population) are estimated to have died for WNV-related reasons. In 2003, 56 of 78 marked crows disappeared or were found dead between June and November. Five of the 28 juvenile losses were possibly unrelated to WNV, thus we estimated that 65% of our population died because of this pathogen in 2003. The total loss of 72% of population members, including 82% of juveniles, in a single year of WNV exposure raises concern for precipitous declines in American Crow populations in coming years.

West Nile virus can have long-lasting repercussions

Daily News Central, July 14, 2005

Two summers ago, West Nile virus invaded Cara Keilman's brain and likely caused a stroke that the 11-year-old Ness City, Kan., girl is still striving to overcome.

After mosquitoes swarmed Roger Wilkins of Bucyrus, Kan., in 2003, he spent a month in the hospital feverish, dizzy and delirious with a West Nile infection. Months of physical therapy later, he still feels weak and less steady on his feet.

Dianne Fluty suffered through the summer of 2002 with headaches, insomnia and tremors. The Sedalia, Mo., woman spent a year recovering from the West Nile virus infection that caused her symptoms. But even now, the tremors and headaches make regular visits.

As hundreds of its victims have discovered, West Nile virus is a ferocious enemy. Once thought to be a serious threat mainly to the elderly and infirm, researchers have found that the virus can cause months of debilitating illness, and even polio-like paralysis, in healthy people of all ages.

And even relatively mild cases of West Nile illness that doctors used to compare to a week-long bout of flu have turned out to have serious lingering symptoms.

"West Nile is a frightening disease," said Daniel Hinthorn, an infectious disease specialist and West Nile researcher at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Read the entire article at <http://health.dailynewscentral.com/content/view/0001282/31/> .

Washington non-human surveillance summary

Reported to Washington State Department of Health as of July 26, 2005

Washington State Department of Health West Nile Virus Surveillance Testing Summary							July 26, 2005	
County	Horses*		Birds**		Sentinel Flocks***		Mosquito Pools****	
	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive
Adams	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Asotin	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Benton	0	0	19	0	200	0	0	0
Chelan	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Clallam	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Clark	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Columbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Douglas	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ferry	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Garfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grant	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Grays Harbor	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Island	1	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	0	0	5	0	0	0	3	0
King	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0
Kitsap	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	0
Kittitas	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Klickitat	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Lewis	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mason	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Okanogan	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pend Oreille	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pierce	0	0	17	0	0	0	36	0
San Juan	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Skagit	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Skamania	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Snohomish	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0
Spokane	1	0	15	0	0	0	0	0
Stevens	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Thurston	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0
Wahkiakum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walla Walla	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Whatcom	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Whitman	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Yakima	1	0	12	0	50	0	16	0
Totals	6	0	218	0	250	0	100	0

*A total of 12 horses have been tested for West Nile virus with negative results. Six were not included in the table because county/state information was not available. WADDL Report Dated: June 7, 2005.

**A total of 224 birds have been submitted for West virus testing of which 6 birds were unsuitable and not tested for West Nile virus. USGS Report Date: July 15, 2005 and WADDL Report Date: July 21, 2005

***Benton County MCD Report Dated: June 17, 2005

**** Mosquito pools tested by USACHPPM-West Report Date: July 22, 2005 (Week #20) and Cowlitz County MCD Report Date: July 22, 2005

Community Comments

We would like to hear your comments on this newsletter and things you would like to see by sending them to Maryanne Guichard, 360.236.3391 or maryanne.guichard@doh.wa.gov.

WNV Web Resources

Washington State Department of Health www.doh.wa.gov/wnv
Center for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/
US Geological Survey/CDC ArboNET maps westnilemaps.usgs.gov/index.html
Cornell University, Environmental Risk Analysis Program environmentalrisk.cornell.edu/WNV/
Washington State University Cooperative Extension wnv.wsu.edu/
Washington State Department of Agriculture
agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/Diseases/WestNileVirus/default.htm

Article Submission and Subscribing to Newsletter

We are interested in receiving articles for future publications of the WNV Newsletter. Please submit articles and subscription requests to Ben Hamilton, benjamin.hamilton@doh.wa.gov.

DOH Contact List for West Nile Virus

General Public Toll-Free Information Line 1.866.78VIRUS

Publications: Brochures/Flyers/Response Plan/Fact Sheets

Cyndi Free, 360-236-3384 or cyndi.free@doh.wa.gov

Surveillance: Mosquito

Jo Marie Brauner, 360.236.3064 or jomarie.brauner@doh.wa.gov

Animal Surveillance: Dead bird and horse surveillance, case reporting, and laboratory assistance, as well as general WNV response

Tom Gibbs, 360.236.3060 or tom.gibbs@doh.wa.gov

Aquatic Mosquito Control National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

General Permit: Training, technical assistance

Ben Hamilton, 360.236.3364 or benjamin.hamilton@doh.wa.gov

WNV in Humans: Clinical information, case reporting, and laboratory testing

Call your local health jurisdiction or DOH Communicable Disease Epidemiology,
(206) 418-5500 or (877) 539-4344.

Assistance with news releases and media response

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